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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 30, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

RECOGNIZING DR. DONALD MOORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Donald Moore of Madison, North Carolina. For over 40 years, Dr. Moore has served as a physician at Western Rockingham Family Medicine.

Dr. Moore understands that God humbly uses him as an instrument to care for those who are entrusted to him, and he believes each patient is an

extension of his own family. That mindset, Mr. Speaker, encapsulates the true essence of a servant's heart.

After graduating from Madison-Mayodan High School with the title of valedictorian, Dr. Moore attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he majored in biology. Dr. Moore was then accepted at Bowman Gray Wake Forest School of Medicine.

Upon graduation, Dr. Moore had many opportunities presented to him that might have awarded him more comfort and stability in life, but for him, this was not the primary goal.

Instead, he turned his gaze to returning home to care for the teachers, family members, and friends who had loved him and equipped him with the necessary tools to pursue medicine.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear to see that Dr. Moore not only possesses a servant's heart, but he also understands that service to a community is intrinsic to bettering the lives of those around us. His daughter Lindsay describes him as: "A man who knows that he's made in the image of God, and he understood at a young age what it meant to be a servant leader in the community he so loves."

Dr. Moore's wife, Sue, and three daughters believe that he is more than just a father; he is a healer, a teacher, and a hero to the countless people he has cared for.

Mr. Speaker, may God continue to bless Dr. Moore and his family as he enters retirement. I have no doubt that Dr. Moore's legacy, as well as his future service, will continue to impact the lives of those in the community.

CONGRESS MUST SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO END CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in 1896 Svante Arrhenius hypothesized

that carbon dioxide pollution would trigger a greenhouse effect.

Since then, we have emitted 1.4 trillion tons of carbon dioxide, and it has gotten hotter.

In 1987, the Reagan administration crafted the Montreal Protocol to close the ozone hole. It used market tools to solve environmental problems, and it worked.

The Kyoto Protocol was supposed to apply that logic to carbon dioxide. But as many of you know, we then decided to just go collectively crazy. Scientific truths got politicized. Crackpot theories got weaponized. Meanwhile, it got hotter.

Today, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis will release a comprehensive report with a roadmap to turn this ship around. It provides policy recommendations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by almost 90 percent, save our country \$9 trillion, and save 62,000 lives per year by 2050.

It goes further than that. It identifies negative emission tools to take us back to the sustainable carbon dioxide levels we had in 1985. 1985 by the way, is that point in history where prior to that point we had emitted 50 percent of all the CO₂ emissions as a species we have emitted up to this point. Back to the future indeed.

I urge my colleagues to seize this opportunity. This is an opportunity to grow the economy and to protect the environment, but more importantly, it is an opportunity to tell your children that when the times called on you to act, you rose to that challenge.

Please. Seize this opportunity.

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, this week-end America will celebrate its 244th

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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birthday. Unfortunately, we do so in a time of pandemic, a struggling economy, and violent protests. But it is still our birthday, and we should both commemorate and celebrate it.

We usually do a good job in our celebration, although this year will be different since social distancing means we will be in smaller groups, and public fireworks displays have been canceled. I suspect most of us will find a way to gather with family and close friends to cook out and show the red, white, and blue.

But a commemoration is more than that. Merriam-Webster defines “commemorate” as “to call to remembrance” or “to serve as a memorial of.” How many of us will stop and remember what it meant for the Second Continental Congress to not only declare our independence from Britain, but also to state our reasons for doing so in majestic language positing the highest ideals?

Let me make a suggestion: This Fourth, get a copy of the Declaration and read it. My extended family and friends usually get together and have several of us read the various portions of the Declaration out loud and then we talk about its meaning. It doesn't take much time, and we always experience a renewed appreciation for the gift that is our country. This year we will do it virtually, in smaller groups.

The Declaration was meant to be read out loud. Indeed, on July 4, Congress not only voted to accept it but also provided for its distribution to the States and to the Continental Army.

On July 6, John Hancock as president of Congress, sent letters to the States and to General Washington enclosing broadsides of the Declaration requesting that they have it “proclaimed.” It was read out loud to celebrations in dozens of cities and towns in July and August and to the Continental Army on July 9 as it prepared for the British invasion of New York.

To some extent these events were meant to inform and inspire the people of a newly independent Nation. But then, and now, the Declaration is a defining document. It not only said we were an independent Nation, but also who we aspire to be. Freedom and equality were to be at the heart of the Nation's character. And the rights stated in the Declaration, life, liberty, and the pursuit of the happiness, are clearly labeled gifts from God himself to all of us.

The story of our country is really the unfolding of the efforts to live up to these aspirations. President Lincoln used it as a primary basis for arguing against slavery, as in the Gettysburg Address where he famously said: “Four score and 7 years ago our Fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new Nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” As a result of the Civil War these ideals were enshrined in the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution.

Martin Luther King used it in his 1963 “I Have A Dream” speech, referring to the Declaration and to the Constitution as a promissory note to all Americans, which he and others of the civil rights movement called upon the Nation to honor. As a result of the movement, Congress passed the 1964 Civil Rights Act and in 1965 the Voting Rights Act.

I know it is fashionable now among our Nation's elites to view America as evil from our birth, evil in our institutions, and evil in our character. That view is a myth untethered to the reality of our history. This myth is just a false preamble to lay the groundwork for their efforts to radically reorganize our society and have government run every detail of our lives all the while piling tax upon tax upon us. Isn't this type of government what caused the Founders to declare independence in the first place? These elites call themselves “progressive,” but their plan is actually a regression to a tyrannical central government taxing us against our will.

Despite our faults, some of which have been grievous, we are a Nation established upon the highest ideals which has the strength of its character and institutions to self-correct as we strive toward those ideals. Our history repeatedly demonstrates that is who we are.

David McCullough, the Pulitzer Prize winning author and historian, several years ago told a gathering of those of us in Congress that Americans would be more hopeful if we only knew our history. How true. Complicated and contradictory, yes, but it is also a history of spectacular success and of a major force for good here and abroad.

So this week let's celebrate and commemorate who we are. Let's pause in the middle of our present troubles to renew our pride as Americans and draw lessons from our founding and history for the resolution of the issues of the day. And let us, like our Founders, “mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

ALL AMERICANS DESERVE ACCESS TO CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER, AND A PLANET FREE FROM TOXIC POLLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, the coronavirus pandemic, racial violence, and the climate crisis have all highlighted systemic and pervasive inequalities in our country, especially for Black communities and other people of color. Racial, economic, and climate justice are intrinsically linked.

As a member of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, I am pleased to stand with my colleagues this morning to release our climate action plan. It is centered on the principles of justice and equity because all

people deserve access to clean air, clean water, and a planet free from toxic pollution.

After more than a year of hearings, round table discussions, and feedback from people and groups across the country, we have a bold, science-based, comprehensive plan to address the climate crisis. It sets our Nation on a path to reach net-zero emissions no later than mid-century and net-negative thereafter. Our plan focuses on the needs of frontline communities, accelerating our transition to a 100 percent clean-energy economy, and opportunities to create good-paying jobs. Climate solutions are economic solutions.

The climate crisis is an existential threat, and we cannot wait to act. In the Pacific Northwest, climate change is already our reality. Raging wildfires each summer result in hazy skies, smoky conditions, and hazardous air quality comparable to some of the most polluted places on the planet. Decreased snowpack in the winter is upending the outdoor recreation industry. Our ocean is absorbing carbon dioxide and becoming more acidic, devastating commercial fisheries. Warmer water temperatures in the Columbia River are further endangering salmon, which are a fundamental part of the identity and culture of northwest Tribes. Droughts and extreme weather jeopardize the livelihoods of our specialty crop farmers who were already struggling to make ends meet. Despite these conditions, there are reasons to remain hopeful.

As I travel across northwest Oregon, I have visited with constituents who are already hard at work to protect our planet. At 46 North Farms near the majestic Oregon coast, Teresa Retzlaff and her CSA members are using dry farming practices to provide sustainable food and beautiful flowers for their community. In Hillsboro, Oregon, First Tech Community Credit Union constructed its headquarters out of cross-laminated timber, which creates an airy and healthy workplace and is an example of how we can reduce emissions with our choice of building materials while helping to revitalize rural communities.

In Astoria, more than 100 people filled a community room on a Friday afternoon to hear from scientists about how the climate crisis is affecting the health of our ocean. TriMet and Portland General Electric launched the region's first battery electric bus powered by 100 percent renewable wind energy.

In Portland, workers at Vigor constructed a massive wave energy buoy that was deployed off the coast of Hawaii to capture the power of our ocean in generating clean energy.

And to mark the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, I joined environment and labor leaders to discuss a green road to recovery that creates good-paying jobs. These examples, and so many more, informed our work on the select committee.